second data processing system, and

in response to validating the electronic receipt, conducting a commercial transaction.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of validating the electronic receipt further comprises inspecting a digital signature to verify the integrity of the electronic receipt.

3. (Amended) A method for processing an electronic receipt, the method comprising the computer-implemented steps of:

processing a purchase transaction;

generating an electronic receipt comprising data concerning the purchase transaction;

storing the electronic receipt on a removable storage medium;

reading the electronic receipt on the removable storage medium;

validating the electronic receipt; and

in response to validating the electronic receipt,

providing an indication to proceed with a delivery of goods or services

related to the purchase transaction and

updating an inventory affected by said delivery of goods or services.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the step of validating the electronic receipt further comprises inspecting a digital signature to verify the integrity of the electronic receipt.

5. (Amended) A method for processing an electronic receipt, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a removable storage medium;

reading an electronic receipt from said removable storage medium;

validating the electronic receipt; and

in response to validating the electronic receipt, providing an indication to proceed with a delivery of goods or services related to a purchase transaction.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising:

    processing a purchase transaction;

    generating an electronic receipt comprising data concerning the purchase transaction; and

    storing the electronic receipt on said removable storage medium;

    wherein said removable storage medium remains with a consumer.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 further comprising:

    reading the electronic receipt from the removable storage medium;

    generating a modified electronic receipt comprising data concerning the delivery of goods or services for the purchase transaction; and

    storing the modified electronic receipt on the removable storage medium.

8. (Amended) The method of claim 5 further comprising:

    prior to validating the electronic receipt, selecting one of a plurality of electronic receipts in accordance with input from a consumer.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the electronic receipt may be validated a number of times for a purchase transaction that requires a plurality of deliveries of good or services.

10. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the electronic receipt may be validated for a claim for servicing of a product subject to the purchase transaction.

11. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the electronic receipt may be validated for a warranty claim on goods or services subject to the purchase transaction.

12. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the removable storage medium is a smart card.

13. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the removable storage medium is an optical card.

14. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of validating the electronic receipt further comprises inspecting a digital signature to verify the integrity of the electronic receipt.

Claims 15-24 are deleted.

25.   (Amended) A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for conducting a commercial transaction, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for recording an electronic receipt on a removable storage medium at a first data processing system, the electronic receipt comprising data concerning a commercial transaction;

second instructions for reading the removable storage medium after its receipt at a second data processing system;

third instructions for validating the electronic receipt stored on the removable storage medium at the second data processing system; and

fourth instructions for providing authorization for conducting a commercial transaction in response to validating the electronic receipt.

26.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 25 wherein the instructions for validating the electronic receipt further comprise instructions for inspecting a digital signature to verify the integrity of the electronic receipt.

27.   (Amended) A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for processing an electronic receipt, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for processing a purchase transaction;

second instructions for generating an electronic receipt comprising data concerning the purchase transaction;

third instructions for storing the electronic receipt on a removable storage medium;

fourth instructions for reading the electronic receipt on the removable storage medium;

fifth instructions for validating the electronic receipt; and

sixth instructions for providing an indication to proceed with a delivery of goods or services related to the purchase transaction in response to validating the electronic receipt,

seventh instructions for updating an inventory in response to validating the electronic receipt.

28.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 27 wherein the instructions for validating the electronic receipt further comprise instructions for inspecting a digital signature to verify the integrity of the electronic receipt.

29.   (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said removable storage media is a safe card.

30.   (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said removable storage media is a smart card.

31.   (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein each portion of said removable media can only be written once.

32.   (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said reading step is performed to authorize delivery of goods or services previously paid for.

33.   (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said reading step is performed to verify warranty granted.

34. (New) A method of processing a receipt, comprising the steps of:

receiving a removable storage media containing a first electronic receipt;

reading said first electronic receipt to validate a previous transaction;

conducting a new transaction which is affected by said previous transaction;

updating said first electronic receipt to reflect said new transaction.

35. (New) The method of Claim 34, wherein said updating step overwrites said first electronic receipt and writes a second, updated electronic receipt.

36. (New) The method of Claim 34, wherein said updating step writes a second electronic receipt reflecting said new transaction and places a pointer in said first electronic receipt which points to said second electronic receipt.

37. (New) A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for processing an electronic receipt, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for processing a purchase transaction;

second instructions for generating a first electronic receipt comprising data concerning the purchase transaction;

third instructions for storing said first electronic receipt on a removable storage medium;

fourth instructions for reading said first electronic receipt from the removable storage medium;

fifth instructions for validating said first electronic receipt; and

sixth instructions for modifying said first electronic receipt.

38. (New) The method of Claim 37, wherein said sixth instructions overwrite said first electronic receipt and writes a second, updated electronic receipt.

39. (New) The method of Claim 37, wherein said sixth instruction writes a second electronic receipt reflecting said new transaction and places a pointer in said first

electronic receipt which points to said second electronic receipt.

40.   (New) A method of processing a receipt, comprising the steps of:

conducting a commercial transaction between a consumer and a provider;

storing an electronic receipt for said commercial transaction on a computer readable media, wherein said electronic receipt contains additional information beyond that given to document the transaction;

giving said computer readable media to a customer.

41.   (New) The method of Claim 40, wherein said additional information is a credit card number which causes an extended warranty to be in effect.

42.   (New) The method of Claim 40, wherein said additional information is installation guidelines for a product purchased in said commercial transaction.

43.   (New) A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for processing an electronic receipt, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for processing a purchase transaction;

second instructions for generating an electronic receipt comprising data concerning the purchase transaction; and

third instructions for storing said electronic receipt on a removable storage medium, along with additional information beyond that given to document the transaction.

44. (New) The method of Claim 43, wherein said additional information is a credit card number which causes an extended warranty to be in effect.

45.   (New) A method of processing a receipt, comprising the steps of:

conducting a commercial transaction between a consumer and a provider;

storing an encrypted electronic receipt for said commercial transaction on a

computer readable media using an encryption method known only by the provider;

giving said computer readable media to a customer;

whereby consumer tampering with said receipt is prevented.

46.   (New) A computer program product in a computer-readable medium for processing an electronic receipt, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for processing a purchase transaction;

second instructions for generating a first electronic receipt comprising data concerning the purchase transaction;

third instructions for storing said first electronic receipt on a removable storage medium in an encrypted form;

fourth instructions for reading said encrypted form of said first electronic receipt from the removable storage medium; and

fifth instructions for validating said first electronic receipt.